

## REMARKS

Reconsideration of the above-identified Application is respectfully requested. Claims 8 and 15 - 17 are in the case. Claim 8 has been amended. Claims 1 - 7 and 9 - 14 were previously canceled, while Claims 15 - 17 were previously added.

Regarding the rejection of Claims 8 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over the 222A Repeater specification in view of MDRAM, Claim 8 has been amended to overcome the rejection. Claim 8 now recites a system for extending a signal path of a host bus, including a first repeater portion connected to a first segment of the host bus, a second repeater portion connected to a second, non-hierarchical segment of the host bus, and a transaction decode circuit connected to the interface to the first bus segment to determine *by subtractive decode* which transactions on the first bus segment to accept and pass on over the serial link. While it might be argued that element R0 in the 222A Repeater specification determines which transactions to pass on over the serial link, RSEL is used to control R0 for very basic logic translation selection, as shown in the truth tables on page 6 of the 222A Repeater specification, and, as such, R0 is not really a transaction decode circuit. Nonetheless, to further distinguish Claim 8 over this reference, it now recites that the transaction decode circuit determines by subtractive decode which transactions to accept and pass on over the serial link. This is clearly neither shown nor suggested by the 222A Repeater specification.

Further, the MDRAM reference fails to cure the deficiencies of the 222A Repeater specification with respect to Claim 8 as now written. It was cited merely for the allegation that it shows a data buffer. The other art of record is even less relevant. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that neither the 222A Repeater specification nor the MDRAM reference nor, indeed, any of the art of record teach or suggest the invention as set forth in Claim 8, and that therefore Claim 8 is allowable.

Claims 15 depends from Claim 8, and so it is therefore respectfully submitted that Claim 15 is allowable for the same reasons as those set forth above for the allowability of Claim 8, as well as for the additional limitations found therein. Wherefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

Regarding the rejection of Claim 16 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over the 222A Repeater specification and MDRAM as applied to Claim 8, and further in view of the patent to Balay et al., this claim depends from Claim 8, and so it is therefore respectfully submitted that Claim 16 is allowable over the 222A Repeater specification and MDRAM for the same reasons as those set forth above for the allowability of Claim 8. The patent to Balay et al. fails to cure the deficiencies of the 222A Repeater specification and MDRAM, it being cited merely for showing the connection of PCI busses together. Wherefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

Regarding the rejection of Claim 17 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over the 222A Repeater specification and MDRAM as applied to Claim 8, and further in view of Intel 1997, this claim depends from Claim 8, and so it is therefore respectfully submitted that Claim 16 is allowable over the 222A Repeater specification and MDRAM for the same reasons as those set forth above for the allowability of Claim 8. Intel 1997 fails to cure the deficiencies of the 222A Repeater specification and MDRAM, it being cited merely for showing the use of a serialized LPC bus. Wherefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

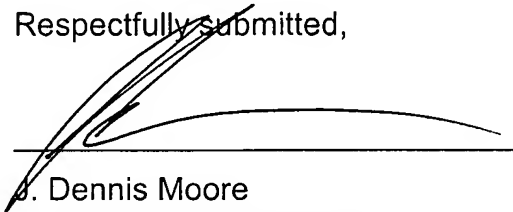
It is respectfully submitted that the claims recite the patentably distinguishing features of the invention and that, taken together with the above remarks, the present application is now in proper form for allowance. Reconsideration of the application, as amended, and allowance of the claims are requested at an early date.

While it is believed that the instant amendment places the application in condition for allowance, should the Examiner have any further comments or

suggestions, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact the undersigned in order to expeditiously resolve any outstanding issues.

To the extent necessary, the Applicants petition for an Extension of Time under 37 C.F.R. §1.136. Please charge any fees in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees to the Deposit Account No. 20-0668 of Texas Instruments Incorporated.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "J. Dennis Moore", is written over a horizontal line.

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